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Macroeconomic policy questions: science and technology for development

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. José Alberto **Briz Gutiérrez** (Guatemala)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 91 (b) (see A/58/481, para. 2). Action on sub-item (b) was taken at the 24th, 36th and 37th meetings, on 3 November and 9 and 11 December 2003. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/58/SR.24, 36 and 37).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/58/L.19 and A/C.2/58/L.74

2. At the 24th meeting, on 3 November, the representative of the United States of America, on behalf of Argentina, Bulgaria, Canada, Ethiopia, Romania and the United States of America, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Cybersecurity and the protection of critical information infrastructures" (A/C.2/58/L.19). Subsequently, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Burkina Faso, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, Gabon, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy (on behalf of the European Union and the acceding countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia), Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mali, the Marshall Islands, Mongolia, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Palau, the Republic of Korea, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Singapore, South Africa, Sweden,

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Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, Uruguay and Viet Nam joined in sponsoring the draft resolution. The draft resolution read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Noting* the growing dependence of governments, businesses, other organizations and individual users on information technologies for the provision of essential goods and services, the conduct of business and the exchange of information,

"*Noting also* the increasing dependence of the world's critical infrastructures — from production and distribution of food and water, to public health and emergency services, to energy and transportation and other vital systems — on information infrastructures that connect and increasingly control their operations,

"*Recognizing* that this growing technological interdependence relies on a complex network of critical information infrastructure components,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 57/239 of 20 December 2002, on the creation of a global culture of cybersecurity, 55/63 of 4 December 2000 and 56/121 of 19 December 2001, on establishing the legal basis for combating the criminal misuse of information technologies, and 53/70 of 4 December 1998, 54/49 of 1 December 1999, 55/28 of 20 November 2000, 56/19 of 29 November 2001 and 57/53 of 22 November 2002, on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security,

"*Noting* that, as a result of increasing interconnectivity, critical information systems and networks are now exposed to a growing number and a wider variety of threats and vulnerabilities that raise new security concerns,

"*Aware* that effective critical infrastructure protection includes identifying threats to and reducing the vulnerability of critical information infrastructures, minimizing damage and recovery time in the event of damage or attack and identifying the cause of damage or the source of attack for analysis and/or investigation,

"*Recognizing* that effective protection requires communication, coordination, and cooperation nationally and internationally among all stakeholders, including governments, businesses and other organizations as well as individual owners and users of information technologies,

"*Recognizing also* that gaps in access to and use of information technologies by States can diminish the effectiveness of cooperation in protecting critical information infrastructures, as well as of international cooperation in combating the criminal misuse of information technology and creating a global culture of cybersecurity, and noting the need to facilitate the transfer of information technologies, in particular to developing countries,

"*Noting also* the work of relevant international and regional organizations in enhancing the security of critical information infrastructures,

"1. *Takes note* of the value of the elements set out in the annex to the present resolution in protecting critical information infrastructures;

"2. *Invites* all relevant international organizations to incorporate these elements, inter alia, for protecting critical information infrastructures in any future work on cybersecurity or critical infrastructure protection;

"3. *Invites* Member States to take into account these elements, inter alia, in developing a strategy for reducing risks to critical information infrastructures;

"4. *Invites* Member States and all relevant international organizations to take, inter alia, these elements and the need for critical information infrastructure protection into account in their preparations for the World Summit on the Information Society, which is to be held in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003 and in Tunis in 2005;

"5. *Stresses* the necessity to facilitate the transfer of information technologies and capacity-building to developing countries in order to help them to protect critical information infrastructures.

"Annex

"Elements for protecting critical information infrastructures

"1. Countries should have emergency warning networks regarding cyber-vulnerabilities, threats and incidents.

"2. Countries should raise awareness to facilitate stakeholders' understanding of the nature and extent of their critical information infrastructures and the role each must play in protecting them.

"3. Countries should examine their infrastructures and identify interdependencies among them, thereby enhancing protection of such infrastructures.

"4. Countries should promote partnerships among stakeholders, both public and private, to share and analyse critical infrastructure information in order to prevent, investigate and respond to damage to or attacks on such infrastructures.

"5. Countries should create and maintain crisis communications networks and test them to ensure that they will remain secure and stable in emergency situations.

"6. Countries should ensure that data availability policies take into account the need to protect critical information infrastructures.

"7. Countries should facilitate the tracing of attacks on critical information infrastructures and, where appropriate, the disclosure of tracing information to other countries.

"8. Countries should conduct training and exercises to enhance their response capabilities and to test continuity and contingency plans in the event of an information infrastructure attack and should encourage stakeholders to engage in similar activities.

"9. Countries should ensure that they have adequate substantive and procedural laws, such as those outlined in the Convention on Cybercrime, opened for signature by the Council of Europe on 23 November 2001, and

trained personnel to enable them to investigate and prosecute attacks on critical information infrastructures and to coordinate such investigations with other countries, as appropriate.

"10. Countries should engage in international cooperation, when appropriate, to secure critical information infrastructures, including by developing and coordinating emergency warning systems, sharing and analysing information regarding vulnerabilities, threats and incidents and coordinating investigations of attacks on such infrastructures in accordance with domestic laws.

"11. Countries should promote national and international research and development and encourage the application of security technologies that are certified according to international standards."

3. At the 37th meeting, on 11 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Henri Raubenheimer (South Africa), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Creation of a global culture of cybersecurity and the protection of critical information infrastructures" (A/C.2/58/L.74), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.19.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.74 (see para. 14, draft resolution I).

5. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Cuba (see A/C.2/58/SR.37).

6. At the same meeting, in the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.74, draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.19 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/58/L.20 and A/C.2/58/L.69

7. At the 24th meeting, on 3 November, the representative of Morocco, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Science and technology for development" (A/C.2/58/L.20), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recognizing* the role that international cooperation on science and technology can play in addressing the technological gap and the digital divide between the North and the South,

"*Recognizing also* the vital role of new and emerging technologies in raising the productivity and competitiveness of nations and the need, inter alia, for capacity-building and measures promoting the transfer and diffusion of technologies to developing countries and public awareness of science and technology,

"*Reaffirming* the need to enhance the science and technology activities of the United Nations organizations and the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in providing policy guidance, in particular on issues of relevance to developing countries,

"*Welcoming* the selection of the substantive theme for the work of the Commission during the 2003-2004 intersessional period, 'Promoting the application of science and technology to meet the United Nations Millennium Development Goals', which are contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

"*Noting with appreciation* the work of the Commission during its intersessional period 2001-2003 on its theme 'Technology development and capacity-building for competitiveness in a digital society', in particular the information and communication technologies development indices, which serve as an important contribution to the preparation of the World Summit on the Information Society,

"*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the impact of new biotechnologies, with particular attention to sustainable development, including food security, health and economic productivity,

"1. *Takes note* of the proposal for an integrated framework for biotechnology development within the United Nations system, requests the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in collaboration with the relevant United Nations agencies, to conduct a feasibility study for establishing an interagency body to facilitate policy development, private sector involvement and capacity development in biotechnology, and invites the Secretary-General to report back to the General Assembly on this subject at its fifty-ninth session;

"2. *Requests* the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, in collaboration with its secretariat, the United Nations Information and Communication Technologies ICT Task Force and the International Telecommunication Union, to jointly develop and publish, on a regular basis, information and communication technologies development indicators, which serve as an effective tool for tracking global progress in the use of such technologies to achieve internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration;

"3. *Invites* the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in its coordinating role in the area of science and technology within the United Nations, to further contribute to the World Summit on the Information Society, in preparing a report for consideration at the second phase of the Summit, to be held in November 2005, on progress made by relevant United Nations agencies that deal with information and communication technologies in implementing the results of the first phase of the Summit, to be held in December 2003;

"4. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that the Commission and its secretariat within the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development are provided with the necessary resources to enable it to better carry out its mandate;

"5. *Calls upon* the Commission and its secretariat to interact closely with the Task Force on Science, Technology and Innovation of the United Nations Millennium Project in order to promote greater information exchange and coordination of activities."

8. At the 37th meeting, on 11 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Henri Raubenheimer (South Africa), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Science and technology for development" (A/C.2/58/L.69), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.20.

9. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.69 (see para. 14, draft resolution II).

10. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of the United States of America (see A/C.2/58/SR.37).

C. Draft decision A/C.2/58/L.6

11. At the 24th meeting, on 3 November, the representative of Morocco, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft decision entitled "Science and technology for development" (A/C.2/58/L.6).

12. At the 36th meeting, on 9 December, the Committee adopted draft decision A/C.2/58/L.6 (see para. 15, draft decision I).

D. Draft decision proposed by the Chairman

13. At its 37th meeting, on 11 December, upon the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union on the ongoing preparatory process for the World Summit on the Information Society (A/58/74-E/2003/58) (see para. 15, see draft decision II).

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

14. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Creation of a global culture of cybersecurity and the protection of critical information infrastructures

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 57/239 of 20 December 2002, on the creation of a global culture of cybersecurity, 55/63 of 4 December 2000 and 56/121 of 19 December 2001, on establishing the legal basis for combating the criminal misuse of information technologies, and 53/70 of 4 December 1998, 54/49 of 1 December 1999, 55/28 of 20 November 2000, 56/19 of 29 November 2001 and 57/53 of 22 November 2002, on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security,

Recognizing the growing importance of information technologies for the promotion of socio-economic development and the provision of essential goods and services, the conduct of business and the exchange of information for Governments, businesses, other organizations and individual users,

Noting also the increasing links among most countries' critical infrastructures — such as those used for, inter alia, the generation, transmission and distribution of energy, air and maritime transport, banking and financial services, e-commerce, water supply, food distribution and public health — and the critical information infrastructures that increasingly interconnect and affect their operations,

Recognizing that each country will determine its own critical information infrastructures,

Recognizing also that this growing technological interdependence relies on a complex network of critical information infrastructure components,

Noting that, as a result of increasing interconnectivity, critical information infrastructures are now exposed to a growing number and a wider variety of threats and vulnerabilities that raise new security concerns,

Noting also that effective critical infrastructure protection includes, inter alia, identifying threats to and reducing the vulnerability of critical information infrastructures, minimizing damage and recovery time in the event of damage or attack, and identifying the cause of damage or the source of attack,

Recognizing that effective protection requires communication and cooperation nationally and internationally among all stakeholders and that national efforts should be supported by effective, substantive international and regional cooperation among stakeholders,

Recognizing also that gaps in access to and the use of information technologies by States can diminish the effectiveness of cooperation in combating the criminal misuse of information technology and creating a global culture of cybersecurity, and

noting the need to facilitate the transfer of information technologies, in particular to developing countries,

Recognizing further the importance of international cooperation for achieving cybersecurity and the protection of critical information infrastructures through the support of national efforts aimed at the enhancement of human capacity, increased learning and employment opportunities, improved public services and better quality of life by taking advantage of advanced, reliable and secure information and communication technologies and networks and by promoting universal access,

Noting the work of relevant international and regional organizations on enhancing the security of critical information infrastructures,

Recognizing that efforts to protect critical information infrastructures should be undertaken with due regard for applicable national laws concerning privacy protection and other relevant legislation,

1. *Takes note* of the elements set out in the annex to the present resolution for protecting critical information infrastructures;

2. *Invites* all relevant international organizations, including relevant United Nations bodies, to consider, as appropriate, inter alia, these elements, for protecting critical information infrastructures in any future work on cybersecurity or critical infrastructure protection;

3. *Invites* Member States to consider, inter alia, these elements, in developing their strategies for reducing risks to critical information infrastructures, in accordance with national laws and regulations;

4. *Invites* Member States and all relevant international organizations to take, inter alia, these elements and the need for critical information infrastructure protection into account in their preparations for the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, which is to be held in Tunis in 2005;

5. *Encourages* Member States and relevant regional and international organizations that have developed strategies to deal with cybersecurity and the protection of critical information infrastructures to share their best practices and measures that could assist other Member States in their efforts to facilitate the achievement of cybersecurity;

6. *Stresses* the necessity for enhanced efforts to close the digital divide, to achieve universal access to information and communication technologies and to protect critical information infrastructures by facilitating the transfer of information technology and capacity-building, in particular to developing countries, especially the least developed countries, so that all States may benefit fully from information and communication technologies for their socio-economic development.

Annex

Elements for protecting critical information infrastructures

1. Have emergency warning networks regarding cyber-vulnerabilities, threats and incidents.

2. Raise awareness to facilitate stakeholders' understanding of the nature and extent of their critical information infrastructures and the role each must play in protecting them.

3. Examine infrastructures and identify interdependencies among them, thereby enhancing the protection of such infrastructures.

4. Promote partnerships among stakeholders, both public and private, to share and analyse critical infrastructure information in order to prevent, investigate and respond to damage to or attacks on such infrastructures.

5. Create and maintain crisis communication networks and test them to ensure that they will remain secure and stable in emergency situations.

6. Ensure that data availability policies take into account the need to protect critical information infrastructures.

7. Facilitate the tracing of attacks on critical information infrastructures and, where appropriate, the disclosure of tracing information to other States.

8. Conduct training and exercises to enhance response capabilities and to test continuity and contingency plans in the event of an information infrastructure attack, and encourage stakeholders to engage in similar activities.

9. Have adequate substantive and procedural laws and trained personnel to enable States to investigate and prosecute attacks on critical information infrastructures and to coordinate such investigations with other States, as appropriate.

10. Engage in international cooperation, when appropriate, to secure critical information infrastructures, including by developing and coordinating emergency warning systems, sharing and analysing information regarding vulnerabilities, threats and incidents and coordinating investigations of attacks on such infrastructures in accordance with domestic laws.

11. Promote national and international research and development and encourage the application of security technologies that meet international standards.

Draft resolution II
Science and technology for development

The General Assembly,

Recognizing the role that international cooperation on science and technology can play in addressing the technological gap and the digital divide between the North and the South,

Recognizing also the importance of North-South as well as South-South cooperation in the field of science and technology,

Recognizing further the vital role of new and emerging technologies in raising the productivity and competitiveness of nations and the need, inter alia, for capacity-building, measures promoting the transfer and diffusion of technologies to developing countries, and the promotion of private sector activities and public awareness of science and technology,

Reaffirming the need to enhance the science and technology activities of the organizations of the United Nations system and the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in providing policy guidance, in particular on issues of relevance to developing countries,

Recognizing the role of information and communication technologies in promoting development as an important step towards addressing the challenges of bridging the digital divide and, in this regard, welcoming the World Summit on the Information Society, held in Geneva in December 2003 and to be held in Tunis in 2005,

Welcoming the Commission's selection of the substantive theme "Promoting the application of science and technology to meet the development goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration", for its work during the intersessional period 2003-2004, as welcomed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2003/56 of 24 July 2003,

Noting with appreciation the Commission's work during its intersessional period 2001-2003 on its theme "Technology development and capacity-building for competitiveness in a digital society", in particular the information and communication technologies development indices, which serve as an important contribution to the preparation of the World Summit on the Information Society,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the impact of new biotechnologies, with particular attention to sustainable development, including food security, health and economic productivity,[1]

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/56, in which the Council invited the Commission to interact closely with the Information and Communication Technologies Task Force to promote greater information exchange and coordination of activities in the field of information and communication technologies i order to contribute to the World Summit on the Information Society,

1. *Urges* the relevant bodies of the United Nations system engaged in biotechnology to work cooperatively so as to ensure that countries receive sound

[1] A/58/76.

scientific information and practical advice to enable them to take advantage of these technologies, as appropriate, to promote economic growth and development;

2. *Takes note* of the proposal of the Secretary-General for an integrated framework for biotechnology development within the United Nations system, as contained in his report on the impact of new biotechnologies, with particular attention to sustainable development, including food security, health and economic productivity,[1] and requests him to report further on the status of coordination between the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system with a view to strengthening the coordination of activities in the area of biotechnology, in particular in the promotion of biotechnology within the United Nations system;

3. *Also takes note* of the publication entitled *Information and Communication Technology Development Indices*,[2] and invites the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in collaboration with the Information and Communication Technologies Task Force and the International Telecommunication Union, to update that publication as part of its contribution to the World Summit on the Information Society, recalling General Assembly resolution 56/183 of 21 December 2001, in which the Assembly encouraged effective contributions from and the active participation of all relevant United Nations bodies;

4. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that the Commission and its secretariat within the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development are provided with the necessary resources to enable the Commission to better carry out its mandate;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session.

[2] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.D.14.

15. The Second Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I
Science and technology for development

The General Assembly,

(a) Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the impact of new biotechnologies, with particular attention to sustainable development, including food security, health and economic productivity;[1]

(b) Requests that the report be circulated at the Global Biotechnology Forum, to be held at Concepción, Chile, from 2 to 5 March 2004;

(c) Reiterates the invitation in its resolution 57/237 of 20 December 2002 to the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to include in his report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session, a section on the outcome of the Global Biotechnology Forum.

[1] A/58/76.

Draft decision II
Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union on the ongoing preparatory process for the World Summit on the Information Society

The General Assembly takes note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union on the ongoing preparatory process for the World Summit on the Information Society.[1]

[1] A/58/74-E/2003/58.